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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1901.

EXIT GOVERNOR TYLER.

The last message has been sent in, a trip with his staff to Charleston, a few more pardons, perhaps a reception or two, and his Excellency, Governor Tyler, must return to ranks and be a private again. He will take with him to his home the good will and well done of his fellow-citizens. He went to the discharge of the duties of his high trust a business man, and his administration will be remembered as a business one. It must be gratifying to him to reflect upon the fact that he leaves a snug surplus in the treasury, and that while he was in power the bonds of the State advanced greatly in price.

His farewell message is long enough and comprehensive enough, and there is a shade of sadness about it. This is not unnatural as it was a good bye say.

The governor takes pride in the test farm, and our hope is that it may yet be the pride of all. He is right in urging an enlargement of the farm to be worked by State convicts. Better far this than that the criminals should be crowded in cells, and by their work come in competition with honest labor, and add to the already large pile of a Boston millionaire.

He is right again in urging the adoption of the primary plan for the election of United States Senators, and other agents of the people. Just here some one will whisper that the governor rather thinks that he could beat Tom Martin under this plan, and therefore urges the change. And just here we take the liberty of suggesting to our governor never to run again for office. He has been greatly honored by his fellow-citizens, we have heard more than one man say that the governorship of Virginia is the highest honor known to man. He has good property and sweet home circle, and if he would have the evening of life bright and happy, he would do well to resume business at the old stand, and not be induced again to aspire to office. If the people should need his services in the future they will know where to find him. The governor may not relish such advice, but, should he act on it he will live to thank us for it.

"VIRGINIA EXEMPLAR."

With above as caption the Richmond Times delivers a striking sermon. We take from it the following paragraph:

"But if we should discard all question of sentiment, even from a material point of view, it will be to Virginia's advantage to take high ground on this question of suffrage, as upon all questions which have in them the moral element. If she will proclaim to the world through her Convention that she stands for equal and exact justice to all men and that she will not countenance anything like dishonesty and trickery in the suffrage; if she will take the highest ground upon this question and upon the question of taxation and the question of public education and all associated questions, she will gain for herself the praise and the good will of the people of the United States and she will attract the most desirable class of settlers and investments. In carrying out this high purpose it may be necessary for some white men to make a sacrifice, but it will not be a vain sacrifice. Good results, moral and material, will follow such a course and every citizen of the Commonwealth will directly or indirectly share in the benefits. The path of duty is always the path of safety. God save the Commonwealth!"

We have week by week been repeating the progress(?) made by our Convention, but we must confess that we have reached a dead stand still, and progress seems out of the question. All things, however, come to him who waits, and we are going to cultivate that virtue until it reaches good growth.

The name of Mrs. McKinley has died out of the newspaper circles well nigh as emphatically as her husband has died out of office. So passes the glory of this. The places that now know us will soon know us no more forever. What is man that thou art mindful of him?

Congress is in session again. The old organization was renewed. The Democrats in caucus had to have a family row. We are sick of all such. Dirty linen out of public eye!

It is high time that Democrats were learning sense, then they will begin to win victories.

"So long as we can afford to borrow money," says Secretary Gage, "we are all right as a nation." That is some can afford to borrow and others can't. He should have said, some folks can borrow money and others can't. And by the way, the useful men in all business circles are men who can borrow money. Close down on the borrowing habit in any community and panic comes at once. Don't let's try it in Farmville.

When a man is dropped for non-payment of dues he is generally broke.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

By common consent it was long enough and well written. His tribute to Mr. McKinley was graceful without being gushing. He doesn't recognize the trust disease and therefore has no remedy to suggest.

Let the tariff alone, the gold standard is good enough, add a new cabinet office, Secretary of Commerce, build the interoceanic canal, cling to the Monroe doctrine, shut the door to Chinamen but open the door to China, treat the Indian as man, take care of forests, irrigate waste lands, carry the mails to every man's castle, take off hats to the working man, build a strong navy, welcome coming Cuba, do best for the Filipinos and live in peace with all the world. Such recommendations are generally sensible and practical.

He shoots wide of the mark, however, when he contends that there are no law-made millionaires, and that the weak have equal chance in financial struggles now-a-days with the strong. When he comes to treat of railroads he departs from such reasoning, and admits that smaller corporations are discriminated against in the matter of rebates, etc. In this he is strictly right, just as right as in the other contention he is wrong.

There is no wall over negro woes down South in any line of the message, and no threats of excommunication. Just here his good sense and honesty are in evidence. The fact is, that like the Western horses, the president is all right except when he goes to bucking or making breaks. There are none perfect, no not one.

THE MAKE-UP OF CONGRESS.

"The whole membership of the House is 357. Of these 197 are Republicans, 152 Democrats and 8 of all other parties, including Fusion, Silver Republicans and Populists. There are four Territorial Delegates who have seats but no votes. They come one each from Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Hawaii. The Senate, which is composed of 90 members, is also strongly Republican, and so that party has every branch of the Federal Government and full and undivided responsibility for the conduct of affairs."

Enough for all practical purposes. The trouble is that so much time will be consumed in roll calls and general foolishness.

Those Southern papers, which have fallen into the bad habit of holding as "scare-crows" over the heads of the Southern people, the intemperate threats of some Northern speaker as to what will be done with Dixie if she don't behave herself, should rub out and begin anew.

Let them rage, and we will proceed to do business at the old stand with the full assurance that every decent Northern man who comes to make his home with us will aid us in the good work of preserving anglo-saxon civilization.

"Law makers must not be law breakers." So said speaker Henderson to fellow-member of Congress, and so saying he says well. This has not been the rule; on the contrary very much the reverse has prevailed. No liquor to be sold under the roof of the capitol has been the upper floor law, while in the cellar, "what will you take?" has been the prevailing and pervading custom. But this is only one of many glaring instances in which law makers become law breakers.

Crocker says "the leader of Tammany should stay in New York the year round." If Crocker is to be that leader, in our opinion he should remain abroad the year round.

Mississippi and North Carolina are flourishing in spite of new constitutions. Why should Virginia be afraid of a new constitution, which means something?

"SAY SO."

The man who is not grateful for kindness of fellow-man is well nigh brute, and what shall we say of him who never recognizes the Giver of all good?

Are sunshine and flowers, sleep and health, home and friends, bread and clothing, courtesies and kindness as we pass through life, law and order and an open Bible, of any worth? Then why not say so? To whom? Who is the author of them all? Say so upon your knees, in your homes, in your churches, at your work, at your play, when you lie down, when you rise up, when you go out and when you come in. Say so in speech, and in song, and in look, and in all life.

It was Queen Victoria who on hearing of the splendid reception which had been given her daughter by her Canadian subjects, sent this message across the seas: "Pleased with the reception; say so." Are you thankful? Then say so.

The Constitutional Convention has really made no progress, and we have nothing to report of its proceedings. Wish we did.

Mr. Hall Caine, the novelist, states that he is largely indebted for his literary success to the Bible. "I think," he says, "that I know my Bible as few literary men know it. There is no book in the world like it, and the finest novels ever written fall far short in interest of any one of the stories it tells. Whatever strong situations I have in my books are not of my creation, but are taken from the Bible."

And the gifted author is not alone in this position. Take from the books of our libraries all that they contain which can be traced to the Bible, and that which remains would not be worth shelf room.

Senator Glass is the game cock of the yard, and all Virginia deplors the fact of his continued ill health. Would that he had the physical strength of a

giant, and what a power for good he would be in the old Commonwealth.

Senator Osbrel is still sick at home. The demands of State and nation upon him are pressing, and our hope is that he will soon be well enough to respond to them with his wonted ability to do good and efficient service.

The young men who went to tar and feather a young companion, came to sad and sudden grief. A man shoots well from his own castle. We don't blame him, but very much deplore the tragedy.

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